

Chapter 1: The Web of Life

Vocabulary

organism

A living thing

Examples: human, sunflower, mushroom, redwood tree, mosquito, bacteria

consumer

An organism that eats another organism

Examples: cow, human, hawk, fish.

photosynthesis

The process in which plants make food with the use of light

herbivores

Organisms that eat plants

Examples: horse, rabbit, vegetarian human

carnivores

Organisms that eat animals

Examples: hawk, mountain lion, snake, spider

omnivores

Organisms that eat both plants and animals

Examples: bear, human, chimpanzee

ecology

The study of living and nonliving parts of the environment and how they impact each other

biology

The study of life

producer

An organism that produces its own food

Examples: tomatoes plant, corn, algae

consumer

An organism that eats other organisms

Examples: snake, spider, human

decomposer

An organism that lives on dead and decaying plants and animals

Examples: mushroom, bacteria, slug

microorganisms

Small plants and animals that you need a microscope to see

Examples: germs, bacteria,

community

All the plants and animals that live in a certain location

Example: all the life in a pond

food chain

The movement of food and energy from producers through consumers and eventually decomposers

Example: oat grass -> mouse -> snake-> hawk

food web

Several connected food chains

sun

The source of all energy in the biosphere

energy

The ability to do work

matter

Anything that has weight and takes up space

atom

The smallest part of an element

element

A substance made up of the same atoms

molecule

A substance made up of two or more atoms

compound

A substance made up of different elements

biosphere

The part of the earth where life is found.